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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6599**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 519

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 2, 2011

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** ISTEP.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Waterman

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
☒ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill replaces the ISTEP test program with the Measures of Academic Progress assessment system. It repeals the definition of "ISTEP program". It makes conforming changes.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2011.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill directs the Department of Education (DOE) to contract with the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) to develop a Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment program which would replace the ISTEP. The Department is to continue using the ISTEP until the MAP assessment program becomes available.

The cost to replace ISTEP test program with the MAP assessment system is currently indeterminable and would depend on future contractual arrangements between the DOE and the NWEA. According to the Department, the ISTEP contract for grades 3 to 8 costs approximately \$25 M annually to administer. Funds currently earmarked for ISTEP examination development and administration could be used as a funding source for the MAP. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill would depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

*Background: NWEA and MAP-* The NWEA was founded in 1977 and currently has about 4,000 partnering school districts participating in the MAP assessment system. The association reports that MAP assessments are offered in Reading, Language Usage, Math, and Science. For Reading, Language Usage, and Mathematics, the skills and concepts can be aligned to state standards; for Science the skills can be aligned to state or federal standards. The tests are computerized; they are often used as an indicator of preparedness for state assessments as well as to measure student progress in special programs such as Title I. The

assessment tests can be given up to four times per school year (three times for the science component).

In one school district in California, the annual cost was reported to be approximately \$15 per student for tests in language usage, reading and mathematics. In 2010, the NWEA completed a project to connect the scale of the ISTEP in mathematics, reading and language with that used by the NWEA.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Education

**Local Agencies Affected:** Schools.

**Information Sources:** Ashley Gibson, Legislative Director, Department of Education, 317-232-6618; NWEA Website: [www.nwea.org](http://www.nwea.org); San Diego Union-Tribune, "Following the MAP: Poway Unified grade-schoolers use assessment tests to measure progress and set goals", March 15, 2009.

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